**COMMONWEAL**

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***January 13, 2020***

**California Report --**

**Governor’s January Budget Proposal for FY 2020-21**

* *Governor’s public safety approach would expand investment in rehab with new youth offender campuses and improved inmate education, while also promoting limits on probation and stronger jail oversight*

On January 10, California Governor Gavin Newsom released his proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21. Strong new initiatives are advanced by the Governor to address the state’s homelessness crisis, to promote housing development and to address climate change. His budget includes increases for secondary and higher education and for Medi-Cal and mental health services.

On the education side, the Governor will pursue universal pre-school and full-time kindergarten for all children. Newsom also proposes future changes in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) that would widen spending options for children as well as for homeless and justice involved individuals. He’s also proposing a new Department of Early Childhood Development that would consolidate and upgrade an array of child service programs, with $10 million set aside to train youth-service professionals, including law enforcement, in adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma-informed responses.

**Newsom’s agenda for juvenile and criminal justice reform**

The Governor used the phrase “Reimagining Criminal Justice” to introduce new programs and initiatives to promote offender re-entry and rehabilitation. Major changes include these items;

* **Prison-based “Youth Offender Rehabilitation Communities”:** The state prison system’s 5,800 youngest offenders (under age 26) would be clustered into campus-style programs known as Youth Offender Rehabilitation Communities. Sited within existing prisons, the campuses will offer specialized programming and expanded education options. To make this happen, $6.2 million is added to CDCR’s budget for FY 20-21 with $10 million on-going for future years.
* **Inmate education programs**: All state prisoners would benefit from new prison education spending supporting improved technology for in-facility education and expanded access to higher education through partnership with the University of California. $27 million is earmarked for technology, academic and vocational training for FY 20-21 with continuing appropriations of $18 million/year.
* **Shifting the Division of Juvenile Justice to Health & Human Services**: The budget takes steps to implement the shift of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to the new Department of Youth and Community Restoration (DYCR)in HHS, effective this coming July. $264 million is transferred from CDCR to fund more than 1,400 new HHS positions (including correctional officers shifted from CDCR) and to support “trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate services to youth in California’s state juvenile justice system”.
* **Closing a state prison:** Based on continuing declines in the state prison population—due to lower crime rates and realignment impact—the Governor says he plans to close at least one state prison within the next five years.
* **Limits on local probation**: Probation reform is high on the Governor’s agenda. He proposes to reduce local probation terms for felonies and misdemeanors to a maximum of two years (from five) on the basis that research supports better outcomes for shorter supervision periods linked to re-entry and rehabilitative services. $60 million annually for three years is set aside to support probation services for misdemeanants. SB 678 funding (part of the state’s original prison realignment plan) would increase by $11 million to incentivize further reductions in commitments of probation violators to state prisons.
* **State-local grant programs move forward:** Proposition 47 funds would increase significantly based on state savings from prison population reductions due to the sentencing changes mandated by the initiative. State savings for FY 20-21 are projected to rise by $44 million, to a new total of $125 million that will be distributed in Prop 47 grants for mental health, substance abuse, education and rehabilitative programs. Of this amount, nearly $80 million will be available to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for Prop 47 grants in the coming year. Appropriations would continue in FY 20-21 for Adult Re-Entry Grants ($37 million) and for the California Violence Intervention and Prevention program (CalVIP, $9 million), both administered by BSCC.
* **Criminal indigent defense gets a boost**: The Governor proposes $4 million for FY 20-21 for the State Public Defender to improve the quality of criminal indigent defense services provided by counties. Another $10 million would go to a BSCC-administered pilot program to supplement local funding for criminal indigent defense.
* **Jail oversight issues** continue to draw the Governor’s attention. Reports of suicides by inmates, physical abuse and alleged violations of state standards, at least in some county jails, have sparked demand for stronger enforcement of the state’s local jail standards. The Board of State and Community Corrections promulgates those standards and inspects local jails, though the Board lacks enforcement power for violations that may be uncovered. The Governor addresses this in the budget proposal, pledging that California will “strengthen the state’s oversight of county jails” by identifying “local deficiencies through public board meetings” and by more frequent BSCC inspections. He also directs BSCC to review its standards to ensure that they reflect national best practices.

**The January Budget Proposal goes to the Legislature for budget subcommittee hearings**

The Governor’s proposed budget now goes to the Legislature for hearings in budget sub-committees that will meet over the next several months. In May, the Governor will forward his proposed “May Budget Revision” to lawmakers in advance of a final state budget bill that must be presented to the Governor by June 15th. The Governor then has until July 1st to approve or veto items in the final version of the FY 20-21 state budget.

For juvenile and criminal justice proposals, the action now moves to Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees. The membership in these subcommittees is largely the same as it was last year. Here is the lineup.

**Assembly Budget Subcommittee 5 on Public Safety:**

Shirley Weber (D.- San Diego), Chair

Reginald Jones-Sawyer (D.- Los Angeles)

Tom Lackey (R.- Palmdale)

Melissa Melendez (R.- Lake Elsinore)

Mark Stone (D.- Santa Cruz)

Phil Ting (Dem. alternate) – (D. - San Francisco)

Jay Obernolte (Rep. alternate)- (R. – Big Bear)

**Senate Budget Subcommittee 5 on Corrections, Public Safety and the Judiciary**

Nancy Skinner (D.- Berkeley), Chair

Jim Beall (D. – San Jose)

John Moorlach (R. – Costa Mesa)